

## **FY 2015 BJA Justice Assistance**

### **ABSTRACT**

**NAME:** West Valley City

**TITLE OF PROJECT:** FY 2015 JAG—West Valley City Police Body-Worn Camera Program

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM:** Earlier this year the West Valley City Police Department purchased 190 TASER-Axon Flex body-worn cameras with one-time assistance from a State grant. The cost of keeping the body-worn camera program operational is \$197,748 each year. These costs are generated from storage fees, licensing fees, and other general fees charged by TASER. Our agency is tasked with finding this funding for these cameras each year in order to continue providing both the citizens of West Valley and its officers the service and protection they deserve. Funding from within our City is simply not available at this time.

**TARGETED AREA/POPULATION:** West Valley City is geographically located on the western side of the Salt Lake Valley in Utah. The current population is just over 130,000 and covers 35.5 square miles. Our agency handles the highest amount of calls for service per capita in the State of Utah.

**PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** The West Valley City Police Department has recognized the significant benefits of equipping its officers with body-worn-cameras. Our goal is to maintain this invaluable, yet costly, program in an effort to facilitate transparency and foster relationships of trust between the officers and citizens.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT STRATEGY:** Our project strategy is simple: Maintain our body-worn camera program by receiving the necessary funding to pay the annual costs associated with it.

**SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS:** N/A

**ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES:** As we move forward with our body-worn camera program, we anticipate we will continue reaping the many benefits we have already experienced. Some of those benefits include: 1. Citizens repeatedly voicing their approval of the cameras and how they feel they benefit everyone, 2. A reduction in complaints against officers, 3. Our officers being able to capture victims' statements, suspects' confessions, and first-hand recordings of crimes in progress, 4. Criminal cases being resolved before they even reach court proceedings due to the footage captured on these cameras, 5. Our officers feeling more protected in their work because their actions and words are always on film.

**PROJECT IDENTIFIERS:** 1. Body-Worn Camera  
2. Community Policing  
3. Impaired Driving  
4. Policing  
5. Traffic Enforcement